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Dr. Johnson is a professor of Civil Engineering and Dean of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences at Howard University. Prior to this appointment, he was the chair of the Department of Civil Engineering and interim associate vice president for Research at Howard. Dr. Johnson received his B.S. from Howard University, M.S. from the University of Illinois and Ph.D. from the University of Delaware.

Dr. Johnson's research interests include treatment and reuse of wastewater sludges, treatment of hazardous substances, the use of nanotechnology tools in the environmental area, the evaluation of environmental policy issues and the development of environmental curricula.

Dr. Johnson is currently a member of the National Research Council's Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology, National Academy of Engineering's Engineering Education Committee, SECME's Board of Directors, University of California - Office of the President Environmental, Safety and Health Panel, U.S. EPA Board of Scientific Counselors (chair), and the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board. In addition, he serves on several university, private sector and research center advisory committees. Previous board and committee activities include the National Research Council's (NRC) Board on Radioactive Waste Management, American Society for Engineering Education's (ASEE) Engineering Deans Council Executive Committee, Civil Engineering Foundation Board, and several NRC, ASEE and ASCE committees (e.g., Remediation of Buried and Task Wastes, DOE Infrastructure Renewal, Assessing the Capacity of the US Engineering Research Enterprise).

Dr. Johnson has published over 50 scholarly articles, contributed to three books and co-edited two books including one on hazardous waste. Memberships in professional organizations include American Water Works Association, fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society for Engineering Education and Tau Beta Pi. Dr. Johnson is a registered professional engineer in the District of Columbia and a diplomate of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He is the recipient of the National Society of Black Engineers 2005 Lifetime Achievement in Academia Golden Torch Award.